

NATIONAL BAPTIST



REV. R. H. BOYD, D.D., LL.D., Secretary and Treasurer.

No doubt the most marvelous record ever made by an institution and business firm, whether religious or secular, known in the annals of Tennessee or Nashville history, so far as that is concerned, is the growth of the National Baptist Publishing Board, who operates the Baptist Publishing House, a big plant located in this city at the corner of Second avenue, North, and Locust street. It has been well said that the story of Jack's bean stalk is well applied to this institution in speaking of its growth. Many volumes could be filled if an attempt was made to get a complete history of the beginning, the work and the object of the institution, and more volumes on top of this would be added if one would sit and listen to that remarkable individual at the head of the concern, under whose management the mammoth plant is being run. This is none other than Richard Henry Boyd, a minister of the gospel who came to Nashville from San Antonio, Texas, in the Fall of 1896. It was through his determined effort and by his great powers that such a plant is a reality.

It is said by old Texans like A. R. Griggs, D.D., of Dallas; H. M. Williams, D.D., of Galveston; L. L. Campbell, D.D., of Austin, and David Abner, Jr. B. Ph., of Conroe College, who have known Dr. Boyd for many years, that this project is the dream of his life, and that for possibly twenty years he was at work planning for and making preparations towards the establishment of a Negro printing plant and publishing concern that would give to the denomination a standing and rating, and a work that would be as a monument in future years—something that would show the accomplishment of the Negro Baptists. That he has succeeded can best be judged from what has been accomplished within the past twelve years.

A leading Baptist of the Northern

Baptist Convention, who was in a recent conference with the Southern Baptist at Atlanta, made the following statement in Nashville several months ago, viz.: "While in Atlanta last week attending a special conference which had been called to look over the missionary and educational outlook for the denomination, and especially the work among Negroes, and discussing the condition and the progress of the Negro in the United States, the best informed man in the conference said that he regarded Dr. R. H. Boyd, Secretary of the National Baptist Publishing Board, and Secretary of the Home Mission Board, the greatest constructive genius that the century had produced."

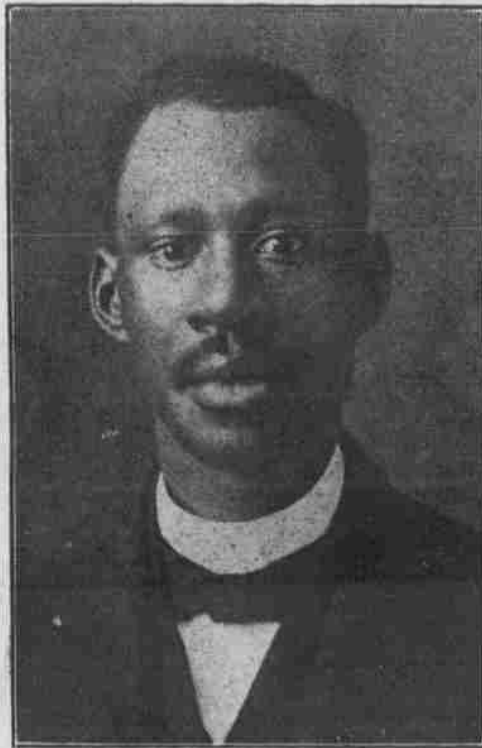
The work of the National Baptist Publishing Board has been, first, the publishing of denominational Sunday-school and church literature; second, the building of a printing plant that employs scores of members of the race in skilled and professional labor; third, in bringing about the complete establishment of printing, book-binding, proof-reading, imposing, press work, stereotyping, etc., that would give the Negro youth, who wanted to pursue such a course, an opportunity to get a thorough training as well as to bring about such an establishment in the denomination whereby pure and orthodox doctrine might be put up and sent out to the thousands of Sunday-schools in the Baptist denomination. The publishing plant has accomplished this. They have a complete editorial department under the management of Rev. W. S. Ellington, D.D., who is assisted by scores of contributors and editorial writers.

The personnel of the National Baptist Publishing Board is possibly unknown to the thousands of Baptists in the city of Nashville and the State of Tennessee. They are given as follows: The chairman of the Board is Rev.

C. H. Clark, D.D., who has served continually in this position since the location of the Board in Nashville. The Secretary, Treasurer and Manager is Rev. R. H. Boyd, D.D., LL.D., a native Mississippian. He has served in this position since September, 1896. The Assistant Secretary is Henry Allen Boyd, a native Texan, who has been with the institution since March, 1904. The Field Secretary is Rev. Wm. Beckham, D.D. He has filled the position since 1902, coming to this city from Austin, Texas. The Editorial Secretary is Rev. W. S. Ellington, D.D. Dr. Ellington was elected two years ago to fill this position. Prior to that time he was an associate to the editor-in-chief, Rev. E. C. Morris, D.D., of Helena, Ark. The members of the Board hail one from every state in the Union, but the Executive Board or Board of Management, which holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday in each month, are Rev. Wm. Haynes, pastor of Sylvan Street Baptist Church; Rev. J. C. Harding, pastor North College Street Baptist Church, Rev. G. B. Taylor, pastor of Second Baptist Church, and Rev. G. Wm. Ward, late pastor of Monumental Baptist Church, Chattanooga, with those just mentioned as officers.

When the work of the Board was begun thousands of criticisms among the Negro Baptists were started, but these were met with a silent determination and with the real accomplishment of something. But it was not long before the Baptists throughout the United States began to realize that they, in spite of their opposition, and over many protests, would have a plant turning out such periodicals and such other publications as were used in the denomination.

To-day they can boast of having the largest distinctively Negro printing



REV. WM. BECKHAM, D.D., Field Secretary.

house and publishing concern in the world. They supply more Sunday-school literature than all the other four Negro publishing houses combined. They employ more people, they collect more money, they pay out more money, they represent a larger constituency, they print more books than all the others; and, in fact, it is the most complete in every respect; yet, no effort on the part of the management or the concern itself has been put forth that does not mean advancement and prosperity.

A record of statistics and a rehashing of facts as brought out in the last annual report of Dr. Boyd, the Secretary and Manager, will show the enormous amount of patronage enjoyed by the plant for that fiscal year. It was before the National Baptist Convention that the following facts in connection with the plant, its growth, and its improvement, were made:

Prior to the making of this report the demand was made by members of the denomination throughout the country to know something of the history and to have some facts before them that would show how it has grown from year to year, so at the request of prominent Baptists, the Secretary compiled a set of statistics covering a period of ten years, that would give particular information concerning the house's rapid growth.

The facts just quoted are marvelous within themselves, but the establishment has not confined itself to the real publication of Sunday-school and church work. It is prepared to print anything from a calling card to an encyclopedia. They print thousands of volumes of books annually. They have the most complete set of song books published by any denomination in the race. Dr. Boyd stated a few days ago that he was prepared to offer to his constituents and to his trade sixteen separate and distinct song books, with three anthems. The Board has made special stride in the music line. It was under the late Prof. Wm. Rosborough that the music department enjoyed such prosperity. Since his death, able music composers, like Wm. H. Carter, of Harrisburg, Va.; W. H.



REV. C. H. CLARK, D.D., Chairman.

Sherwood and Prof. Thos. W. J. Tobias, of New Orleans, have contributed largely to the music department. They have made profound impressions and received flattering compliments from time to time upon the rendition of their music, and it was in Atlanta, Ga., during the Young People's Educational Congress, that the National Baptist Publishing Board and its productions along the music line, came into prominence. Prof. Wm. Rosborough was given charge of the music. A souvenir music program with the most choice selections taken from thousands of dollars worth of music plates at the Publishing House, was compiled and rendered at this meeting. Since then the fame has continued to grow and at each National Baptist Convention a musical director manages their song services. And now since the inauguration of the National Baptist Sunday School Congress, a new impetus with greater enthusiasm has been given the music department.

Another important factor in this wonderful plant is the Church Supply Department. This was begun about six years ago, but the death of Prof. Wm. Rosborough brought it to a stand still. Within the past four years, with a new manager, the department has had a rapid growth. They are supplying churches throughout the United States with communion sets, both old style and individual services; ministers with baptismal garments and robes; homes with pianos, sewing machines; Sunday-schools with library book cases, organs and pianos; churches with church pews in several grades, new style church seats of their own design and creation, opera chairs, pipe organs, bells, pulpits, pulpit chairs, church lamps, and, in fact, as Dr. Boyd puts it, he supplies the entire want of the Negro Baptists. So rapid has been the growth of this department that they were compelled to prepare to meet the demand made upon them; so last year Dr. Boyd purchased an entire seating and cabinet company's

plant, consisting of two car-loads of machinery and fixtures. This was brought to Nashville and a building is already erected for the installation of the machinery.

This department has been able to successfully compete with the largest furniture and pew factories in the country. They have seated churches in nearly every state in the Union. They have installed seats in four churches in Nashville, viz.: Second Baptist Church, corner Stevenson and Deluge streets, Sylvan Street Baptist Church on Shelby avenue, North College Street Church and the St. John Baptist Church on Pearl street. Aside from this they have installed pews in churches in the following cities: Jacksonville, Fernandina, Deland, Crystal River, and Orange Park, Fla.; Dawson, Bainbridge, Waycross, and Climax, Georgia; Livingston, Gadsden, Fort Mitchell, two churches at Selma, and Carbon Hill, Alabama; two churches at Memphis, Ripley and Glimp, Tenn.; Sumter, S. C.; Woods Cross Roads, Virginia; Newark and Madison, New Jersey; Connellsville, Pa.; Gallipolis and Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis, Ind.; Chicago, Ill.; Kansas City, Mo.; Elkton and Basket, Ky.; Rodney and Mattson, Mississippi; two churches at New Orleans, Torras and Gibson, La.; Dallas, Cuero, Taylor, Roundrock, Kilgore, Gause and Beeville, Texas; El Reno, Okla., and so on they go. These were just given to show that the territory of this department, like that of the Sunday-school supplies, is not limited. They have shipped furniture—like school desks—to foreign lands. Their bells are heard almost everywhere. So after all Nashville has in its midst a concern not only soliciting, but capturing the patronage and bringing thousands of dollars into the city to be distributed in the business channels. There are only four distinctively Negro publishing plants, of which this is the youngest.

In connection with the plant they are publishing what is known as the Na-



REV. HENRY ALLEN BOYD, Assistant Secretary.



No. 1. ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 523 Second avenue, North.